

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT**

# **Eastside Township Fuels and Vegetation Project**

Volume I



**May 2006**

Cottonwood Field Office



It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

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**ID-420-2005-EIS-952**



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



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5000(420)

May 15, 2006

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Eastside Township Fuels and Vegetation Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The DRAFT EIS proposes and analyzes four alternatives for fuel and vegetation treatments and restoration activities on approximately 1,200 acres of federal land in north central Idaho that are administered by the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Cottonwood Field Office and the Nez Perce National Forest's Red River Ranger District. The Nez Perce National Forest (NPNF) is a Cooperating Agency on this project because BLM proposes to use and construct roads on the NF. The NPNF may authorize the use and construction of roads based on the analysis in this EIS.

Please review the document and direct written comments to the address at the top of this letter, Attention: Eastside Project or send an email to [robbin\\_boyce@blm.gov](mailto:robbin_boyce@blm.gov). Comments will be most useful if they are specific, include suggested changes, mention page numbers where appropriate, and cite sources when applicable. Comment letters and emails must include your complete name, address and phone number. We request this information in case we need clarification or have questions about your comments. BLM will not consider comments that do not include this information. Anonymous comments will not be considered. The public review period and comment period officially begins with publication of the Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register* by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and will last 60 days.

All comments that BLM receives, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Cottonwood Field Office during regular business hours (7:45 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the Final EIS. You may request confidentiality if you are commenting as an individual, but you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public review in their entirety.

BLM will hold at least one public meeting to discuss the Draft EIS. Dates, times and locations of the meeting(s) will be distributed in news releases announced in local news media, and posted on the BLM website at [www.id.blm.gov](http://www.id.blm.gov).

Thank you for your participation in this effort. For additional information or clarification regarding this document, please contact Robbin Boyce, Project Lead, at (208) 962-3594.

Sincerely,

Greg M. Yuncevich  
Field Manager

## **Eastside Township Fuels and Vegetation Project**

### **Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

1. Responsible Agency: United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management
2. Type of Action: Administrative (X) Legislative ( )
3. Document Status: Draft (X) Final ( )
4. Abstract: This Draft Environmental Impact Statement describes and analyzes four alternatives for managing the public lands and resources administered by the Bureau of Land Management's Cottonwood Field Office and the Nez Perce National Forest's Red River Ranger District, located in northern central Idaho, in Idaho County. BLM is the Lead Federal Agency and the Nez Perce National Forest (NPNF) is a Cooperating Agency on this project. BLM proposes to use and construct roads on the NF and, as a result of the analysis in this EIS, the NPNF may authorize the use and construction of roads.

The Eastside Township Fuels and Vegetation Project (Eastside Project) was developed to address the forest health, fuels, safety, and watershed issues in the Elk City area. Four alternatives have been developed, including Alternative A (the "no action" alternative), Alternative B (proposed action-preferred alternative), and Alternatives C and D, which are variations of Alternative B. The project alternatives consider declining forest health issues, accumulation of fuels due to fire suppression, and effects of historic activities such as road construction and mining. Restoration activities are being proposed to address watershed, water quality, and fisheries conditions, and a plan for improved public access. The alternatives address the need for an upward trend in fish habitat condition, as well as the economic and social well being of area users and local residents.

5. The review period on the Draft Eastside Project EIS is 60 calendar days. The review period begins when the Environmental Protection Agency publishes a Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*.
6. For further information contact:

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